



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Sanctuary System
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Rd.
Scituate, MA 02055
(781) 545-8026 FAX: (781) 545-8036

Water Quality Working Group

AGENDA

9 January 2004

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

MIT Sea Grant, Cambridge, MA

- 10:00 – 10:30 Introductions, Adoption of Agenda, Acceptance of 11/24 Minutes, Alternates
Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, WQ WG Chair
Anne Smrcina, SBNMS, WQ WG Team Lead
- 10:30 – 11:00 Working Group Discussion
- Consider proposal to include sediment contamination in the water quality discussions se
- Development of Goal Statement relative to water (and sediment) quality and for the Sanctuary. Please come with an outline, bullets or a draft of what you think should be t goal statement of the SBNMS -- and as broad or narrow as you choose
- 11:00 - 11:30 Review of material from assigned tasks
WQ Definitions -- Doug Ofiara
WQ Regulations -- Kate Van Dine
SBNMS monitoring/GOMOOS -- Anne Smrcina
EPA No Discharge Areas -- Ann Rodney
- 11:30 – 12:30 Massachusetts Bay Modeling Studies -- Presentations:
Meng Zhou, UMass-Boston, WQ WG Technical Advisor
Pierre Lermusiaux, Harvard, WQ WG Technical Advisor
- 12:30 – 1:15 *Working Lunch*
Discussion: What are the questions of concern from the group regarding water and sea quality? What should the sanctuary be protecting relative to water and sediment quality? What do the current SBNMS monitoring activities address relative to the questions of concern? What is missing?
- 1:15 – 2:00 Presentations:
Results from GOM Monitoring Indicators of Ecosystem Health meeting
(Carlton Hunt or Jan Smith)
Studies of contaminants (including PCBs) in Mass. Bays fishes
(David Lincoln - invited)
- 2:00 -- 3:00 Discussion of Issues Relative to SBNMS "Water and Sediment Quality" Monitoring:
What are the contaminants of concern?
What are the sources of pollutants and contaminants into SBNMS?



What are the relative loadings of pollutants and contaminants of concern?
How would we rank the quality of water in SBNMS?
What are the important questions for SBNMS with respect to sediment and water quality?
Are resources adequately protected?
Is SBNMS water quality degrading?
Are pollutant and contaminant levels affecting organisms?
What is an adequate response to monitoring impacts from human-related catastrophes such as oil spills, sewage releases, toxic materials on recently sunk ships, etc.?
What indicators can be used to answer questions regarding water and sediment quality and impacts?
What would trigger a response to observed changes? (This is, how does one separate noise from impact?)
What other data are needed?
Is sufficient monitoring done in and around the SBNMS to assess water quality changes?

3:00 – 3:45

Elements of a water and sediment monitoring strategy for the SBNMS action plan

3:45 – 4:00

W.G. Logistics (Meeting Dates), Next Steps and Summary

4:00

Adjourn